



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PRESENTS RODNEY DONAVON WITH REGIONAL ISAAC CLINE AWARD

NOAA's National Weather Service officials have presented the agency's prestigious regional Isaac M. Cline Award to Des Moines weather forecaster Rodney Donavon.

The Isaac M. Cline Award honors individual and team employees for operational excellence in the delivery of products and services in support of the National Weather Service mission. Donavon is recognized for outstanding efforts in meteorology.

"Our primary mission is to save lives and property, and the Cline Award recognizes the high level of proficiency in which National Weather Service employees carry out their tremendous responsibilities," said Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, USAF (Ret.), director of NOAA's National Weather Service.

"Every day on the local, regional, and national levels, National Weather Service employees exemplify the vision of service above self," said Lynn P. Maximuk, director of the agency's 14-state central region. "Rodney Donavon demonstrates that dedication by putting the needs of others before his own. Whether issuing forecasts and warnings, writing computer programs or providing administrative support, Cline Award recipients deserve recognition for their exceptional efforts."

Meteorologist in charge Brenda Brock of the Des Moines forecast office presented the award during a December 5, 2006, ceremony at the office in Johnston, Iowa. Brock nominated Donavon for the award.

Donavon is commended for continued development and testing of a comprehensive warning technique for identification of severe-sized hail. He tested the technique using radar data from locations outside Iowa and shared concepts and results with other agency meteorologists via regional conferences and a tele-training session. Completely integrated into the Des Moines severe weather warning operations in 2006, Donavon's technique allows meteorologists to identify severe hail storms earlier than was previously possible. "Rodney's technique has revolutionized the severe weather warning process at the Des Moines weather forecast office when hail is a concern," Brock said.

Donavon will now be considered for recognition with a national Cline Award. The national award recognizes individual and team accomplishments in meteorology; support services; upper air observations; engineering, electronics or facilities; outreach; leadership, hydrology, program management and administration and hydrometeorology.

The award is named for the man whose courage and dedication is credited with saving thousands of lives during the Galveston, Texas hurricane of 1900. Isaac Cline was in charge of the U.S. Weather Bureau office in Galveston when the popular coastal city was struck with the deadliest natural disaster in the nation's history. The death toll exceeded 8,000, but could have been much higher if not for Cline's acute understanding of the weather and his early hurricane

warnings in an era when meteorology was in its infancy and ship-to-shore communications were non-existent.

In 2007 NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, celebrates 200 years of science and service to the nation. Starting with establishment of the Survey of the Coast by Thomas Jefferson in 1807 to formation of the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Union to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA's National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov>

National Weather Service Des Moines: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx>